

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

In Re:	§	
James E. Gresham	§	Case No.: 4-03-41441-dml
Kimberly A. Gresham	§	Chapter No.: 7
Debtor(s)	§	

**DISCHARGE OF DEBTOR**

It appearing that a petition commencing a case under title 11, United States code, was filed by or against the person named above on February 6, 2003, and that an order for relief was entered under chapter 7, and that no complaint objecting to the discharge of the debtor was filed within the time fixed by the court (or that a complaint objecting to discharge of the debtor was filed and, after due notice and hearing, was not sustained);

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The above-named debtor is released from all dischargeable debts.
2. Any judgment heretofore or hereafter obtained in any court other than this court is null and void as a determination of the personal liability of the debtor with respect to any of the following:
  - (a) debts dischargeable under 11 U.S.C. sec. 523;
  - (b) unless heretofore or hereafter determined by order of this court to be nondischargeable, debts alleged to be excepted from discharge under clauses (2), (4) and (6) and (15) of 11 U.S.C. sec. 523(a);
  - (c) debts determined by this court to be discharged.
3. All creditors whose debts are discharged by this order and all creditors whose judgments are declared null and void by paragraph 2 above are enjoined from instituting or continuing any action or employing any process or engaging in any act to collect such debts as personal liabilities of the above-named debtor.

DATED: 7/25/03

FOR THE COURT:  
Tawana C. Marshall, Clerk of Court

by: /s/J Hunsuckle, Deputy Clerk

**EXPLANATION OF BANKRUPTCY DISCHARGE  
IN A CHAPTER 7 CASE**

This court order grants a discharge to the person named as the debtor. It is not a dismissal of the case and it does not determine how much money, if any, the trustee will pay to creditors.

**Collection of Discharged Debts Prohibited**

The discharge prohibits any attempt to collect from the debtor a debt that has been discharged. For example, a creditor is not permitted to contact a discharged debtor by mail, phone, or otherwise, to file or continue a lawsuit, to attach wages or other property, or to take any other action to collect a discharged debt from the debtor. *[In a case involving community property:]* A creditor who violates this order can be required to pay damages and attorney's fees to the debtor.

However, a creditor may have the right to enforce a valid lien, such as a mortgage or security interest, against the discharged debtor's property after the bankruptcy, if that lien was not avoided or eliminated in the bankruptcy case. Also, a debtor may voluntarily pay any debt that has been discharged.

**Debts That are Discharged**

The chapter 7 discharge order eliminates a debtor's legal obligation to pay a debt that is discharged. Most, but not all, types of debts are discharged if the debt existed on the date the bankruptcy case was filed. (If this case was begun under a different chapter of the Bankruptcy Code and converted to chapter 7, the discharge applies to debts owed when the bankruptcy case was converted.)

**Debts that are Not Discharged.**

Some of the common types of debts which are not discharged in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case are:

- a. Debts for most taxes;
- b. Debts that are in the nature of alimony, maintenance, or support;
- c. Debts for most student loans;
- d. Debts for most fines, penalties, forfeitures, or criminal restitution obligations;
- e. Debts for personal injuries or death caused by the debtor's operation of a motor vehicle while intoxicated;
- f. Some debts which were not properly listed by the debtor;
- g. Debts that the bankruptcy court specifically has decided or will decide in this bankruptcy case are not discharged;
- h. Debts for which the debtor has given up the discharge protections by signing a reaffirmation agreement in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code requirements for reaffirmation of debts.

**This information is only a general summary of the bankruptcy discharge. There are exceptions to these general rules. Because the law is complicated, you may want to consult an attorney to determine the exact effect of the discharge in this case.**